

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0039]:

[0039.1] FIG. 21A is a diagram of the system used to fill and verify a patient's prescription.

Please replace paragraph [0047] with the following amended paragraph:

[0047] The present invention is directed to a flow control device, the flow control device in combination with other components, a dispensing system based on such a flow control device, and methods of operating the flow control device, combinations of components and dispensing systems. A dispensing system 10 constructed according to the present invention is shown in full in FIG. 1, in cross-section in FIG. 2, and in an exploded, partial cross-section in FIG. 3. As shown in FIGs. 1 and 2, the dispensing system 10 comprises an article storage container 12 (e.g. a stock bottle) connected to an adapter 14 that connects to a flow control device 16. Article storage container 12 may carry a label 13 which may include a drug number (NDC, DIN, etc.), bar code indicia, human readable indicia, printable RF identification tag, expiration date, among others. Article storage container may also carry an RF identification tag (not shown). Device 16 may also carry a label 17, which may contain some or all of the same information as label 13, as well as information unique to device 16, information about the articles in storage container 12 and information about dispensing history. Device 16 may also carry an RF identification tag (not shown 174 in FIG. 16) in the form of a wedge or cylindrical shaped device.

Please replace paragraph [0088] with the following amended paragraph:

[0088] RF tags 174 will eventually be available with additional memory storage capability. The system may utilize the additional storage memory to record pertinent information specific to the device 16 or the contents of the associated container 12. This information may be static information representing the drug information (name, strength, manufacturer, distributor, etc.), drug specific information (lot number, expiration date, bottle opened on mm/dd/yy, bottle opened by XXX, etc.), ~~or~~ dynamic information (number of prescriptions filled, original medicine bottle quantity, quantity remaining, last worker identifier, etc.), or user information (last used by XXX). When using RF tags 174 with additional memory storage, the information would be read or written via an RF reader (not shown). The system would maintain the bar code or RF indicia for each device 16 in a database. The database would record each prescription filled by a worker and the contents of each associated container 12 by the associated device 16.

Please replace paragraph [0099] with the following amended paragraph:

[0099] The computer system 187 may provide the worker 185 the opportunity to resolve inventory inaccuracies between the information stored in the computer system

database 194 and actual inventory in the stock bottle resulting from, for example, the return of stock to inventory, more or less pills being dispensed than were counted, etc. by manually adding to or subtracting from the count stored in the computer. This allows the computer system 187 and database 194 to monitor and manage the inventory levels of each drug and stock bottle located within the pharmacy. By using the bar code or RF tag 174 and computer system 187 and database 194, the worker 185 is further insured that correct medicament is used to fill the patient's prescriptions by the computer system 187 and database 194 verifying that the associated stock bottle and pills correspond to the prescription.

Please add the following new paragraphs after paragraph [0099]:

[0099.1] Referring now to the system shown in FIG. 21A, one example of a process 240 for filling a patient prescription 246 using device 16 by the worker 185 on the computer system 187 is illustrated. The worker 185 may initiate the patient prescription filling process 240 on the computer system 187 by scanning a bar code 242 on a prescription label sheet 241 using a bar code reader 243. The computer system 187 will determine the worker's identification by using the RF reader 189 to scan the worker's RF identification tag 190. The worker 185 may be directed to retrieve a stock bottle 12 associated with device 16 from stock shelves located within the pharmacy 247.

[0099.2] The computer system 187 will monitor the RF reader 189 to detect the return of the worker 185 by reading the worker's RF identification tag 190. The computer system 187 will read the RF identification tag 174 from the device 16 with an attached stock bottle 12 for medicament 244. The worker 185 will be directed through the proper steps in correctly filling the patient prescription. The computer system 187 directs the worker 185 throughout the process using instructions displayed on the computer system monitor 192.

[0099.3] The computer system 187 will locate the RF identification tag 174 in the database 194 and retrieve the associated medicament information. The computer system 187 confirms the correct medicament 244 is used to fill the vial 245 for the patient prescription 246. If the incorrect device 16 is being used, a visual and audible alert is provided to the worker 185. The worker 185 must acknowledge the potential error before proceeding.

[0099.4] Each prescription 246 filled by the computer system 187 will have recorded several pieces of information in the database 194 for future use by the pharmacist 247. Each prescription 246 filled will include the worker identification via the associated worker RF identification tag 190, medicament 244 and medicament specifics via the association to a device RF 174 or bar code indicia. The prescription filling records can be used by the pharmacist 247 for various purposes by generating reports available within the computer system 187.

[0099.5] When the worker 185 has completed filling the patient prescription 246, the inventory level for the device 16 is adjusted in the database 194 by the computer

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system 187. The inventory levels and reports can be used by the pharmacist 247 for reordering purposes.